

# **Storm Survey Wapello County April 11, 2001**

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## **Overview:**

A tornado developed in rural southern Wapello County, two miles southwest of Agency, Iowa, around 4pm CDT, on Wednesday, April 11. The tornado path was 50 to 100 yards wide with sporadic touchdowns toward the north-northeast for the next 6 miles. Survey responses indicated that the duration of impact at any one location was only 15 to 30 seconds as the tornado quickly moved through Agency and over farms at a 60 mph horizontal movement.

The Odd Fellows Lodge in Agency was destroyed, and over 50 residences were damaged. A woman inside was killed, three people injured and three people had no injuries. One of the injured also died the next day.

This Survey Report will give a brief description of the damage and feedback from Wapello County residents and emergency management officials.

Governor Tom Vilsack visited the area during the survey. The governor spoke with Brenda Brock of the National Weather Service, Ellen Gordon, Administrator, Iowa Emergency Management Division, emergency management personnel (fire department, law enforcement, mayor) and the public. A proclamation for emergency disaster assistance was signed.

A map and a picture of the damage will be posted on the Des Moines website ( [See photo at below and map link in menu on left hand side of browser.](#) )

## **Wapello County, Iowa:**

### **National Weather Service Action:**

#### **The National Weather Service Storm Prediction Center issued:**

Tornado Watch # 134 (including Wapello County), was issued at 11:31 pm CDT and was valid from Noon until 5pm CDT. This was stated this as a “Particularly Dangerous Situation”.

#### **The National Weather Service - Des Moines (Johnston) issued:**

Short Term Forecast, 303 pm CDT: this included “A line of strong thunderstorms ... extending from Sac City to Des Moines to Centerville will continue to move northeast around 35 mph. These storms will reach Pocahontas to Ames to Ottumwa by 3:30pm CDT. This line of storms has had a history of strong damaging winds, tornadic activity, large hail and frequent lightning”.

The call to action statement included: If you are outdoors, do not watch for the tornado, seek

shelter immediately in nearby reinforced buildings.

**The National Weather Service (NWS) received a report from the Wapello County Sheriff's office (National Warning System):** A tornado struck in Agency around 4:03pm. The National Weather Service - Des Moines, issued a tornado warning for Wapello County and notified the NWS Quad Cities for NOAA Weather Radio alert and that it was moving toward Keokuk County. Severe weather follow up statements included storm updates.

The National Weather Service dispatched Brenda Brock and Andy Kula for the storm survey on April 12, 2001. They accompanied Joyce Allsup, EMD, and Ray Stone, Marion County Coordinator, on the survey.

